

Service Area Plan

Department of Social Services

Auxiliary Grants for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (46801)

Service Area Background Information

Service Area Description

An Auxiliary Grant (AG) is a supplement to income (i.e., cash assistance) for recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and certain other aged, blind, or disabled individuals residing in an assisted living facility (ALF) licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) or in an adult foster care (AFC) home approved by a local department of social services. This assistance is available through local departments of social services to ensure that AG recipients are able to maintain a standard of living that meets a basic level of need. VDSS administers Virginia's AG program. An individual must be assessed by the local department of social services to determine 1) financial eligibility for an AG and 2) level of care needed. Local departments of social services make payments to eligible ALF residents in an amount equal to the approved rate for the ALF plus a personal care allowance per month, minus any income available to the individual from such sources as SSI. Not all ALFs accept AG payments. AG payments are comprised of two parts: a payment to the adult for reimbursing the facility for care and a personal needs allowance. The adult uses his or her SSI check and/or other income in addition to the AG payment to pay the facility. The SSI payment plus the AG payment together make up the approved ALF monthly rate.

Service Area Alignment to Missio

Auxiliary Grants enable aged, blind or disabled individuals to remain in the least restrictive setting and to maximize their potential for independence and self-sufficiency.

Service Area Statutory Authority

63.2-800 - Auxiliary Grants (AG) administration and ALF Placement. In order to receive an AG while residing in an ALF or Adult Foster Care residence, an individual must be evaluated by a case manager to determine his or her need for residential care.

Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Employees (potential unlimited)	12	0
Local Departments of Social Services (potential unlimited)	120	120
Low income individuals and families (potential unlimited)	79,644	0
Policy Makers (potential unlimited)	300	0
Providers (Assisted Living) (potential unlimited)	629	0
State and local government (potential unlimited)	136	0
Vulnerable adults (potential unlimited)	76,404	0

Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Bas

Demographic studies show that Virginia's elderly population will grow significantly over the next 20 years with the aging of the "Baby Boomers" and Virginia's popularity with out-of-state retirees. Demographic pressures also will increase the numbers of persons with mental health and mental retardation issues, as will the continuing drive toward de-institutionalization.

Another factor is the aging and death of parents of adult children with mental retardation or mental health issues who will require services when parents can no longer care for them. More dual diagnosis customers -- elderly and incapacitated -- will enter the system.

The numbers of adults needing placements in Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Care settings also will rise, as Virginia continues to seek the least restrictive living environment for vulnerable adults, foster self-sufficiency, and provide community-based services. So will the number of adults for whom pre-admission screenings must be done before they can enter ALFs or AFC settings, as well as annual reviews thereafter.

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Service Area Partners

Community Action Agencies

Hospitals and emergency medical services

Local Departments of Social Services

Local law enforcement agencies

Providers

State agencies

Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities (VISSTA)

Volunteer Organizations

Service Area Products and Services

- Support of organizations serving communities
- Recruitment of volunteers and training on management of volunteers
- Services to promote family stability
- Services to protect vulnerable adults
- Economic assistance to low income families/individuals or nutrition, child care, health care eligibility, and financial assistance to low income families/individuals
- Services that promote sufficiency
- Pre-admission screenings for Assisted Living and Adult Foster Care placements; annual re-assessments
- Adult Foster Home provider recruitment.

Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

Current AG rates do not cover the cost of care, limiting ALF and AFC placements and services. The General Assembly and Governor must approve increases in the general fund portion of the auxiliary grant budget, which have not been sufficient to cover costs. Small annual increases generally track the federal SSI rate. The situation will be aggravated as the eligible population grows.

Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Service

It is expected that legislators, advocacy and provider groups will continue to press for higher ALF and AFC rates. In 2005, their goal was a \$1,200 per month. If the AG rate does not increase to cover costs, the number of ALF beds and AFC homes will not keep up with the demands of a growing population of elders, blind and disabled customers. Waiting lists, inappropriate or sub-standard care, and facility closings will ensue.

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Service Area Financial Summary

The appropriation for Auxiliary Grants for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled is 80% general funds (80%). However, a 20% local match is required by localities (Local funds are not appropriated in the state budget).

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$24,833,475	\$0	\$24,833,475	\$0
Changes To Base	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SERVICE AREA TOTAL	\$24,833,475	\$0	\$24,833,475	\$0

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Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

Objective 46801.01

Increase awareness about Auxiliary Grant Program and availability of public pay beds in assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes

The current monthly AG rates are \$944, except in Planning District 8 where it is \$1,086. Certain legislators, advocacy and provider groups are pressing for higher ALF and AFC rates. In 2005, their goal was a \$1,200 per month. If the AG rate does not increase to cover costs, the number of ALF beds and AFC homes will not keep up with the demands of a growing population of elders, blind and disabled customers. Waiting lists, inappropriate or sub-standard care, and facility closings will ensue.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Enhance the independence, well-being and personal responsibility of customers
(The Auxiliary Grant is a critical tool in achieving one of the Adult Services Program's key mandates: to maintain adults over 60 and persons with disabilities aged 18 to 59 in the least restrictive setting. It also supports Goal #1 of the Department's Strategic Plan to "enhance the independence, well-being, and personal responsibility of customers.")

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

● **Measure 46801.01.01**

Number of utilized public pay beds in assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes.

Measure Type: Output

Measure Frequency: Annually

Measure Baseline: New measure, baseline data not available. Baseline will be established using FY06 data.

Measure Target: Specific target will be determined once baseline is established.

Measure Source and Calculation:

The data will be captured in Adult Services/ Adult Protective Services annual surveys derived from automated case management and reporting system, and reports from VDSS Licensing Division and Department of Medical Assistance Services.

The number of auxiliary grant awards and public pay beds will be compared annually, as will local department of social services waiting lists.

Objective 46801.01 Has the Following Strategies:

- Engage partner agencies and providers to increase awareness about AG and AFC program to increase utilization of available resources.
- Provide information, data, and support to VDSS and Department of Health and Human Services leadership, legislators as requested, and advocacy and other interested parties to support increasing AG rates to achieve full utilization of public pay beds in assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes.

Objective 46801.02

Improve access to personal needs items for auxiliary grant recipients

Individuals receiving auxiliary grants are increasingly unable to pay for important personal needs that improve their ability to remain self-sufficient. The current Virginia personal needs allowance is \$62 per month. It is used by the resident for such things as over-the-counter and non-prescription medications, prescriptions not covered by Medicaid, dental care, eyeglasses, medical co-payments, clothing, personal toiletries, tobacco products, sodas, snacks, dental care, eyeglasses, provision of a personal telephone

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and long-distance service, personal transportation, and activities outside of what is offered by the ALF or AFC provider. Regulations do not allow the personal care allowance to be used for required recreational activities, administration of accounts, debts owed the ALF or AFC home for basic services, or charges for laundry which exceed \$10 per month.

The personal needs allowance has not increased in several years, while the cost of personal care items and sundries has increased significantly.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Enhance the independence, well-being and personal responsibility of customers
(This supports the Adult Services mandate to maintain eligible customers in the least restrictive setting and foster self-sufficiency. It also supports Long Term Objective #3 to “engage and inform citizens to ensure we serve their interests” Goal #1 of the Department’s Strategic Plan to “enhance the independence, well-being and personal responsibility of customers.”)

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- **Measure 46801.02.01**

Ability of auxiliary grant recipients to access personal needs items.

Measure Type: Outcome

Measure Frequency: Annually

Measure Baseline: New measure, baseline data not available. Baseline will be established using FY06 data.

Measure Target: Specific target will be determined once baseline is established.

Measure Source and Calculation:

Identify critical personal needs, such as eyeglasses and dental care. Add personal needs questions to the Adult Services/ Adult Protective Services annual survey to determine if auxiliary grant recipients are able to access those items.

Objective 46801.02 Has the Following Strategies:

- Engage stakeholders to assist in identifying core personal needs and advocating for change.
- Pursue policy change to provide adequate personal needs allowance to cover critical personal needs through VDSS procedures.